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FROM

TIM COWNS

375-3371

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(NAME)

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MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

TO (AGENCY)

DELIVER TO:

DEPT/ROOM NO.

EXTENSION

CIA

John McNeil
DOD
695-2604Ed. Cummings
State
647-9086

20008

REMARKS

COWNS AMENDMENT TO INTELL AUTHORITY BILL

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Subject: Cohen Amendment to Intelligence Authorization Bill

NSC staff Wednesday evening met at their request with SSCI staff to discuss the Cohen amendment. The result was a staff proposal that the issue be resolved as follows. Director Lawn write a letter to Chairman Boren and Vice Chairman Cohen assuring SSCI that any future operation like that which has given rise to SSCI concerns will be reported to Congress as though it were a special activity. In return for such a letter, Senator Cohen would drop his proposed amendment. SSCI staff provided the key ingredients of such a letter.

Based on the points given by SSCI we have prepared a draft letter for Director Lawn's consideration. It is attached. In addition we need comments on it from concerned agencies. Such comments must be available by 1330 today, Thursday July 7 to meet a deadline imposed by the congressional calendar.

Please phone any comments to Jim Collins or Barry Kealy at 395-3371.

I have given full consideration to the concerns you raised in a recent hearing about the adequacy of information provided to Congress in the case of a particular DEA operation. The operation in question involves certain assets under DEA supervision in an operation (1) where those assets are required to enter a state via a recognized international border for the purpose of conducting operations other than the collection of information without the acquiescence of the authorities of the state in which such operations will take place, and (2) where it is the intent of DEA that the role of the Agency and the U.S. Government shall not be acknowledged.

I recognize that the circumstances surrounding this operation and the unique context within which it is being conducted raise special issues that your committee believes warranted special steps in notifying it to Congress. On reflection, I understand those concerns.

It is, therefore, my intention personally, on behalf of DEA, to ensure that any future such operation involving assets under the direction and control of DEA will be treated as though such operation is a special activity as defined in Executive Order 12333 for the purposes of informing appropriate committees of Congress. It is further my intention that in any such case, DEA will coordinate the requirement for informing Congress with the Director of Central Intelligence.

Sincerely,